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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,416	09/10/2003	Jeffrey D. Messerly	END0797US	4619
27777	7590	05/25/2010		
PHILIP S. JOHNSON JOHNSON & JOHNSON ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003				
EXAMINER				
HALL, DEANNA K				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3767				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/25/2010		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/659,416

**Applicant(s)**

MESSERLY ET AL.

**Examiner**

DEANNA K. HALL

**Art Unit**

3767

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 November 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Acknowledgments*

1. This office action is in response to the reply filed 3/17/10.
2. In the reply, the applicant amended claims 1 and 16. Claims 1-14 and 16-20 are pending in the application.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-11 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo et al. (US 5,275,607) ("Lo") in view of Schwemberger et al. (US 6,589,200) ("Schwemberger").** Lo discloses:

A housing 22; an outer tube 72 having a proximal end joined to the housing and a distal end; a waveguide 32 positioned within the outer tube and having a vibrating/oscillating asymmetric blade 30 or a blade symmetric in at least one plane positioned at the distal end of the waveguide Fig 1; and a lumen 38 positioned within the outer tubing having an end positioned in an overlapping C9L30-36 relationship with the blade. The lumen is moveable distally or radially C9L37-39 and provides suction or irrigation to a surgical site, see claim 15, C7 L33-43. The blade is designed to vibrate in

a longitudinal mode coupled with either a transverse or torsional mode and the lumen is fixed or moveable to a position adjacent to the transverse or torsional node to facilitate suction C5 L40-55. The instrument proximal end has controls for suction and or irrigation C15 L39-46.

Lo discloses the invention as substantially claimed (see above). However, Lo does not directly disclose the waveguide being ultrasonic and an ultrasonically actuated asymmetric blade. Schwemberger, in the analogous art, teaches an ultrasonic waveguide 30 with an ultrasonically actuated asymmetric blade 38 attached at the distal end, Fig. 2a. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Lo with the ultrasonic waveguide as taught by Schwemberger for safe and effective treatment of medical conditions. (Lo contemplates that attachment of a number of surgical tools to the solenoid motor C7L33-43).

**5. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo (US 5,275,607) in view of Schwemberger.**

Lo/Schwemberger discloses the invention as substantially claimed (see above). However, this combination does not directly disclose the blade defining a channel for irrigation or suction. The channel for irrigation or suction in Lo is within the lumen. Applicant has not disclosed that having the channel within the blade rather than a separate lumen solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose. Moreover, it appears that the lumen of Lo, or applicant's channel in the blade would perform equally well. Accordingly, it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time the invention was made to have modified Lo such that the irrigation or suction channel would be within the blade because such a modification would have been considered a mere design consideration which fails to patentably distinguish over Lo.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. However, examiner will point out that the characterization of the blade as 30 is maintained. Thus, the lumen 38 does extend in an overlapping relationship with the blade.

### ***Conclusion***

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DEANNA K. HALL whose telephone number is (571)272-2819. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 11:00am-7:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Simons can be reached on 571-272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Deanna K. Hall/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3767  
5/13/10

/Patricia Bianco/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3772